Decrease in agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh

*356. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of some of the agricultural products such as foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane, jute etc. in Andhra Pradesh has come down gradually during the last five years, causing a serious concern;

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to revitalize the agriculture sector, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the manner in which the State has benefited under the Macro Management Programme; and

(d) the area in hectares of the State covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The position of production of foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and mesta in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years is showing below:

(Production in lakh tonnes)

Year	Foodgrains	Oilseeds	Sugarcane	Mesta/Jute $
2001-02	148.36	16.14	180.82	6.72
2002-03	106.54	12.56	153.87	6.13
2003-04	136.97	16.15	150.70	4.70
2004-05*	131.23	22.69	161.70	4.53
2005-06**	152.01	19.64	179.40	4.37

*4th Advance Estimates.
**2nd Advance Estimates.
$Production in lakh bales of 180 kgs. each.

(b) The Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of agriculture, horticulture and livestock sectors in the States including Andhra Pradesh. The strategies formulated by the Government to increase the agricultural production and productivity include (i) increased institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative

credit structure; (ii) ensuring timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilizaiton of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place an appropriate risk management apparatus for farmers.

(c) The Macro Management of Agriculture scheme was launched in 2001. Under this Scheme, the States have been given flexibility to develop and pursue activities on the basis of their regional priorities. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for various inputs and training of farmers/extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems, production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and minikits. Under this scheme, the States are encouraged to include new interventions and best farm practices.

The allocation and utilizaiton of funds under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are shown below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Allocation	Utilization
2003-04	3400.00	3279.20
2004-05	3600.00	3712.18
2005-06	3300.00	--

(d) As on 31.03.2005, 1.11 lakh hectares under drip irrigation and 0.84 lakh hectares under sprinkler irrigation have been covered in Andhra Pradesh.

Assistance to FPIs

†*357. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Food Processing.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.